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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (Authority) has been asked to consider a northern extension of IL Route 53 through central Lake County since the early 1960s; the Authority created a Blue Ribbon Advisory Council to develop a consensus as to whether the Tollway should build the road, and if so, to guide the planning and potential building of an IL-53 and IL-120 North Extension; and

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WHEREAS, As noted in the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning comprehensive regional plan, entitled GO TO 2040, an extension of Illinois Route 53 could ease congestion that has resulted from Lake County's rapid development in recent decades; the project could improve access and mobility in the county and in the region as a whole; GO TO 2040 calls for a 21st Century urban highway - a "modern boulevard" - with a smaller footprint to minimize potential negative impacts while protecting the natural environment and preserving the character of nearby communities; and

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WHEREAS, The report entitled "Illinois Route 53/120 Project: Blue Ribbon Advisory Council Draft Resolution and Report" represents the Advisory Council's view as to the necessity of building a 21st century road in Lake County to serve the needs of residents and businesses; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we adopt the principles and conclusions
4 agreed to by the Advisory Council in its report entitled
5 "Illinois Route 53/120 Project: Blue Ribbon Advisory Council
6 Draft Resolution and Report", and we approve and support the
7 construction of a road in the Route 53/120 corridor,
8 conditioned upon the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority
9 adhering to the design principles, alignments, and
10 environmental commitments outlined in the report; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That we request that the Illinois State Toll
13 Highway Authority, in cooperation with federal, State, and
14 local governments, continue to search for financing mechanisms
15 that are consistent with those described in the report; and be
16 it further

17 RESOLVED, That we express our sincere appreciation and
18 gratitude to the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority Board of
19 Directors and staff for creating the Advisory Council and
20 supporting its work, and we encourage the Board to provide full
21 consideration and quick action to implement the steps outlined
22 in the report; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we request that the Illinois State Toll
2 Highway Authority routinely report to the Advisory Council on
3 its progress in realizing the recommended project, and to use
4 the advice of the Advisory Council as it proceeds; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
7 provided to the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority Board of
8 Directors.